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JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Feith: Saddam's gone, world is a better place - Aksam

Feith asks for Turkey's support against Iran - Aksam

FM Gul warns US to carry out 'clear' policy in Iraq -

Hurriyet

US Kirkuk position disturbs Ankara - Milliyet

Ankara toughens stance on Kirkuk - Sabah

Iraq prepares cabinet with three ethnicities - Sabah

Talabani, Allawi, Pachachi to top Iraqi posts - Milliyet

Iraqi voters beat Zarkawi - Hurriyet

EU suspends sanctions on Cuba - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Feith in Ankara, Incirlik may become logistics hub -

Cumhuriyet

FM Gul issues tough warnings on Kirkuk - Cumhuriyet

PM Erdogan: US turns a blind eye to the PKK - Zaman

EU warns against excluding Sunnis from Iraqi politics - Yeni

Safak

US money for rebuilding Iraq goes missing - Cumhuriyet

Abbas gets support of Putin for peace, arrives in Ankara -
Zaman

Hamas, Hezbollah agree to support resistance against Israel

- Cumhuriyet

Israel to 'import' Jews from Ethiopia - Zaman

BRIEFING

Undersecretary Feith visits Ankara: Visiting US Defense U/S Douglas Feith met with FM Abdullah Gul and Deputy Chief of TGS General Ilker Basbug in Ankara yesterday. Feith said the problem of Kirkuk will be solved within the territorial integrity of Iraq, taking into account the sensitivities of Turkey. An 'architect' of the Iraq war, as described by several Turkish papers, Feith promised that the United States would not allow actions in Iraq that would harm Turkish interests. FM Gul complained to Feith about the Americans' reluctance to carry out a military operation to remove the PKK presence in northern Iraq. Feith stressed that there has been no change in the US determination to fight terrorism, adding that the PKK issue will be taken up at the appropriate time. Gul said that US policies in Iraq should be shaped in order to satisfy all groups in the country, and to treat all of them equally. Feith made an indirect reference to Iran by commenting on the growing threat posed by nuclear proliferation in the region. Reports quote an unidentified official from the MFA as stressing that Feith did not raise with FM Gul the issue of using Incirlik Airbase as a hub for providing logistical support to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ankara welcomes Iraq vote, warns on Kirkuk: The Iraqi elections 'reconfirmed the will of the Iraqi people to maintain the country's course in a united way towards peace and security,' the Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement on Monday. However, 'attempts to alter the demographic structure in northern Iraq will be taken into consideration,' the statement said. FM Gul has said over the weekend that if the Turkmen are subjected to oppression, Turkey will not remain a spectator to such a development.

PM Erdogan on Kirkuk, Iraq: PM Tayyip Erdogan told the "Wall Street Journal" in Davos that Ankara is considering its own measures on Iraq because the United States has ignored the problems of Kirkuk and the PKK presence in northern Iraq. Erdogan complained about US reluctance to remove the terrorist presence in northern Iraq and the mass migration of Kurds to Kirkuk which, he said, will create major problems in the future. In a separate interview with "Newsweek," Erdogan also complained about 'insufficient' security measures by US forces for Turkish truck drivers

ferrying goods to Iraq. Terrorist attacks against Turkish truckers have claimed about 100 lives thus far. The Turkish PM also advised the US to set a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq after local police and military forces are fully established.

Congressman Dodd on Turkey: US Congressman Christopher Dodd said that Turkey made the right decision in not allowing the deployment of US troops before the war with Iraq. Responding to questions posed by the "Zaman" at World Economic Forum meetings in Davos, Switzerland, Dodd said he would not have voted for occupation of Iraq if he had known that prewar intelligence regarding Iraqi weapons was false. Turkey, a model country, will make a significant contribution to the resolution of problems between the Islamic world and the West, Congressman Dodd stressed.

Palestine's Abbas in Turkey: Palestinian head of state Mahmoud Abbas will arrive in Ankara from Moscow today on his first regional tour after winning the elections in Palestine. Abbas will be accompanied by FM Nabil Shaat and Transportation Minister Hikmet Zaid on his two-day visit, during which the Palestinians will be meeting with President Sezer, PM Erdogan and parliament speaker Arinc.

Israeli top commander due in Ankara: The Israeli Chief of Staff, General Moshe Yaalon, is due in Turkey today on a two-day visit to discuss the modernization of the Turkish military and the sale of Israeli made "Harpy" unmanned reconnaissance planes. Papers cite the Israeli daily "Haaretz" as claiming that General Yaalon will bargain with Ankara over \$1.5 billion in arms sales.

FM Gul to China: FM Abdullah Gul is to travel to China on Tuesday as the official guest of his Chinese counterpart, Li Zhaoxing, to discuss cooperation on economic and trade issues. The first Turkish foreign minister to visit China in eight years, Gul will also seek the support of Beijing, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to end the international isolation of Turkish Cypriots. Gul is not expected to visit East Turkistan, where there have been widespread claims of human rights violations against the Turkic minority .

Turkish 'Hizbulah' may be resurrected: The Turkish fundamentalist terror organization Hizbulah has started reorganizing by establishing companies and bookstores in Turkey and Europe, "Zaman" writes, citing Turkish police reports. Hizbulah, led by Mehmet Besir Varol, hides its members among non-terrorist Islamic groups and seeks cooperation with the 'Kurdistan Islamic Movement,' a group affiliated with the PKK/Kongra Gel, according to "Zaman." The Kurdistan Islamic Movement has control over 25 mosques in Europe, from where it carries out organizational activities. Although the US Administration has put Hizbulah on its list of terrorist organizations, the organization is still able to carry out its activities in Europe freely.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq Elections-The Feith Visit

"An American in Ankara"
Taha Akyol wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/1): "US Defense Department Undersecretary Feith, with his militarist and neo-conservative character, represents a typical figure in the Bush administration. He is one of the key men at the Pentagon who shapes the military policies of the Bush administration. There were two messages from Douglas Feith to Turkey: First, Kirkuk is the business of Iraqis, and Turkey has nothing to do with it. Second, Turkey should side with the US against Iran. . I value the friendship between Turkey and the United States. The strategic relationship between the two is a good thing for both the region and for world peace. The American economy, its politics, and the freedom embodied in its culture represent what should be global values. However, America is currently being ruled by a group of neo-conservatives, meaning a collaboration between Evangelical Protestants and militant Zionists. This is why Doug Feith is the 'number three' at the Pentagon. The fact of the matter is that the current rulers of the US are harming both American interests and the interests of the world. The election in Iraq is a positive development. Iran should not be allowed to have nuclear weapons. But these facts do not justify the aggressive, militarist, imperialist policies of the US. . The entire world, including Americans, is urgently in need of common sense in Washington."

"The Iraq Dilemma"
Turgut Tarhanli commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (2/1): "It is certainly an important development that the people of Iraq are trying to define their future. Yet this fact is doomed by another reality -- all of this began with a military occupation. The occupation will always cast a shadow over any positive developments.

Looking at the statements by the Iraqi president right after the elections, there seems little hope that the Bush administration is going to take steps toward eliminating that shadow by withdrawing its forces. Despite its significant success in many international conflicts, the United Nations has not had any role in Iraq other than a symbolic representation. Given the current circumstances, there is still questions about the credibility of the argument that the Iraqi people can define their own future, especially when it is taking place under the supervision of a big power."

"Waiting for Rice"
Gungor Mengi commented in the mass appeal "Vatan" (2/1): "What are Barzani's intentions? Is he trying to deepen mistrust in the US-Turkish relationship through these provocative statements? Barzani might have been inspired by Prime Minister Erdogan's recently increased anti-American statements. It would definitely be to Turkey's benefit not to increase the tension, not to continuously issue harsh warnings, and most of all, not to damage the 'indispensable status' of Turkey in the eyes of the US. The new Secretary of State of the second Bush Administration, Condoleezza Rice, will be coming to Turkey on February 5. If the words being told to her behind closed doors by government officials should somehow leak into the newspaper headlines, Turkey will be wasting its chance to resolve these issues to its own benefit. It is not fitting for the state of Turkey to allow itself to be deceived into making mistakes by Barzani."

"When Will the US Withdraw from Iraq"
Fikret Ertan observed in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (2/1): "The length of the stay of US forces in Iraq depends on the ability of the Iraqi security forces to establish internal security and to protect their borders. Whenever the Iraqi security forces have the power to fulfill its duties, then the US can withdraw from Iraq under certain conditions and guarantees. In my opinion, this will take a minimum of two years."

EDELMAN